

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 EB-03 PM-03 SP-02

L-01 INR-05 CIAE-00 IO-03 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EURE-00

PRS-01 SAM-01 /048 W

----- 034596

P R 081537Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3931

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 26061

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, FR, SP

SUBJECT: FRENCH REACTIONS TO EC DELIBERATIONS ON SPAIN

REF: USEC 08970

1. SUMMARY: QUAI DIRECTOR FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

ANDREANI HAS RATHER HEATEDLY CONFIRMED TO US DEGREE OF

FRENCH HIGH-LEVEL IRRITATION OVER EC COMMISSION RE-

ACTIONS TO RECENT EVENTS IN SPAIN. END SUMMARY.

2. ECHOING WHAT SAUVAGNARGUES REPORTEDLY SAID AT EC

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FONMINS COUNCIL IN LUXEMBOURG OCTOBER 6, ANDREANI

ARGUED THAT COMMISSION HAD GONE "FAR BEYOND ITS POWERS" IN PRESENTING MINISTERS WITH VIRTUAL FAIT ACCOMPLI ON EC NEGOTIATIONS WITH SPAIN. ANDREANI BUTTRESSED POINT WITH ALLUSIONS TO EMOTIONAL, PUBLICLY QUOTED STATEMENTS BY COMMISSION MEMBERS. AND HE CONFIRMED THAT SAUVAGNARGUES HAD BATTLED HARD AND ANGRILY AT LUXEMBOURG TO MAKE CLEAR THAT A) FRANCE OBJECTED TO HAVING FOREIGN POLICY MADE FOR IT BY THE COMMISSION AND, B) MORE SPECIFICALLY, THAT IT DISAGREED WITH TONE AND FORMULATION OF POSITION COMMISSION TOOK.

3. FRENCH ARGUMENT RUNS AS FOLLOWS: WESTERN EUROPEANS HAD ALREADY MADE THEIR POINT ON SPANISH EXECUTIONS. EC-SPANISH NEGOTIATIONS WERE ALREADY VIRTUALLY AT DEAD CENTER. BEATING SUCH A DEAD HORSE IS FUTILE AND CAN, IN THIS CASE, ONLY SERVE TO FURTHER AGGRAVATE WESTERN EUROPE'S ALREADY BADLY STRAINED RELATIONS WITH SPAIN. HOWEVER, IT IS PRECISELY THESE RELATIONS WHICH REMAIN THE CRITICAL THREAD ON WHICH RESUMPTION OF SPAIN'S EVOLUTION TOWARD A MORE LIBERAL STATE ACCEPTABLE TO WESTERN EUROPE HANGS. SINCE FRANCE BELIEVES THAT THIS IS THE CENTRAL ISSUE SAUVAGNARGUES DID HIS BEST AT LUXEMBOURG TO MODERATE THE MINISTERS' REACTIONS IN ORDER NOT TO DRIVE SPAIN INTO ISOLATION.

4. ANDREANI ALSO WAS VERY BLUNT AS TO THE "STUPIDITY" OF THE EUROPEANS' STAMPEDE IN PULLING OUT AMBASSADORS FROM MADRID. FRANCE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO FOLLOW PATTERN AFTER PRECEDENT HAD BEEN SET BY OTHERS. NOW ALL THE WESTERN EUROPEAN AMBASSADORS WILL HAVE TO RETURN, LEAVING IMPRESSION OF FUTILITY AND OPENING UP EC GOVERNMENTS TO NEW DOMESTIC CRITICISM.

5. ANDREANI DUCKED QUESTION WHEN THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR WOULD RETURN TO MADRID, BUT IMPLIED IT WOULD BE "SOON." (COMMENT: IT OCCURS TO US THAT IN VIEW HIS MOSCOW VISIT NEXT WEEK GISCARD MAY WELL WANT TO PUT OFF THIS QUESTION

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TO COVER HIMSELF FROM POSSIBLE NEW DOMESTIC CRITICISM AT LEAST UNTIL HE RETURNS FROM USSR.) ACCORDING TO NEWS SERVICE REPORT JUST RECEIVED, A "WELL-INFORMED SOURCE" HAS IN FACT SUGGESTED THAT FRENCH AMBASSADOR GILLET MAY BE ONE OF LAST EC AMBASSADORS TO RETURN TO MADRID, ON GROUNDS (WHICH IN THEMSELVES ARE TRUE) THAT HE WAS IN FRANCE ON PERSONAL LEAVE AND WAS PREPARING HIS APPROACHING RETIREMENT.

6. AS TO CONSTRUCTIVE STEPS FRANCE COULD TAKE IN SPAIN
IN NEXT MONTHS ANDREANI WAS RESERVED AND PESSIMISTIC,
CONFINING HIMSELF TO SAYING THAT THRUST OF GOF'S EFFORT
WILL HAVE TO BE THROUGH NON-GOVERNMENTAL CHANNELS,
INCLUDING VARIOUS POLITICAL PARTIES PARTICULARLY THE
SOCIALISTS. WHILE THIS INVOLVES VERY DELICATE RELATION-
SHIPS THEY ARE THE ONLY ONES WHICH HAVE ANY USEFUL EFFECT
AT THIS STAGE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC ATTITUDES, EXECUTIONS, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PARIS26061
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750349-0718
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751070/aaaackie.tel
Line Count: 125
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <28 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRENCH REACTIONS TO EC DELIBERATIONS ON SPAIN
TAGS: PFOR, FR, SP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006